



So, what is this event coming to St Paul ? . . .

MINNESOTA FESTIVAL OF TREES & MSA TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Minnesota Festival of Trees (FOT) is the brain child of the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture (MSA) Commercial Arborist Committee which developed the initial concept and brought all of the pieces together. Since it's inception in 2004, the FOT was partnered with the already existing State Tree Climbing Championship (TCC). And what an addition it turned out to be. The marriage of the two events proved to be a real winner. In addition to wonderful arboriculture displays and presentations that distinguished the program, this spring event now featured the excitement of the state Tree Climbing Championship competition.

Each year, this event is hosted by a metro area municipality as part of planned activities associated with some aspect of trees. Because the Minnesota Festival of Trees celebration was created to promote public awareness for the proper care of trees in the urban forest, it seemed a logical fit to also include the host city's annual Arbor Day Ceremony. The specific character of the event is somewhat "tweeked" by the host community, but always comes together to provide for a wonderful experience for private citizens and professional tree workers, the opportunity to learn about and experience trees.

The State Tree Climbing Championship provides a forum for some of the most talented Minnesota climbers to test their arborist skills, with the Masters Challenge winner going forward to the International Championships the following year. The International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC), previously named ISA Tree Trimmer's Jamboree, was initially proposed in 1975 by Dick Alvarez from Atascadero, California. The competition grew as Alvarez invited other companies to attend his annual company picnic. Eventually, it became a chapter sanctioned event conducted nationally and internationally.

Today this all day arboricultural event continues stronger than ever and is made possible through the generous sponsorship of various companies and agencies. Recognition to event sponsors is provided in a variety of means depending upon the level of sponsorship; including event-day vendor booth space; company logos and names on banners, program books, event t-shirts, etc.; and opportunities to promote your company to the public and participants.



